



PUBLIC MEETING

MEMS, MEMORIAL AVENUE, SCHOOL
STREET

Hosted by the Manchester School District and Town of Manchester,
Vermont

May 20, 2015 - Jackie Parks Room - MEMS

Overview of Process



- Introduction of Public Officials
- Purpose:
 - Present and Discuss Current Challenges/Concerns
 - Discuss Possible Solutions
 - Solicit and Receive Public Input
- This is not a final design meeting. It is a meeting about current issues/concerns, concepts and possible solutions

Input/Comment Process



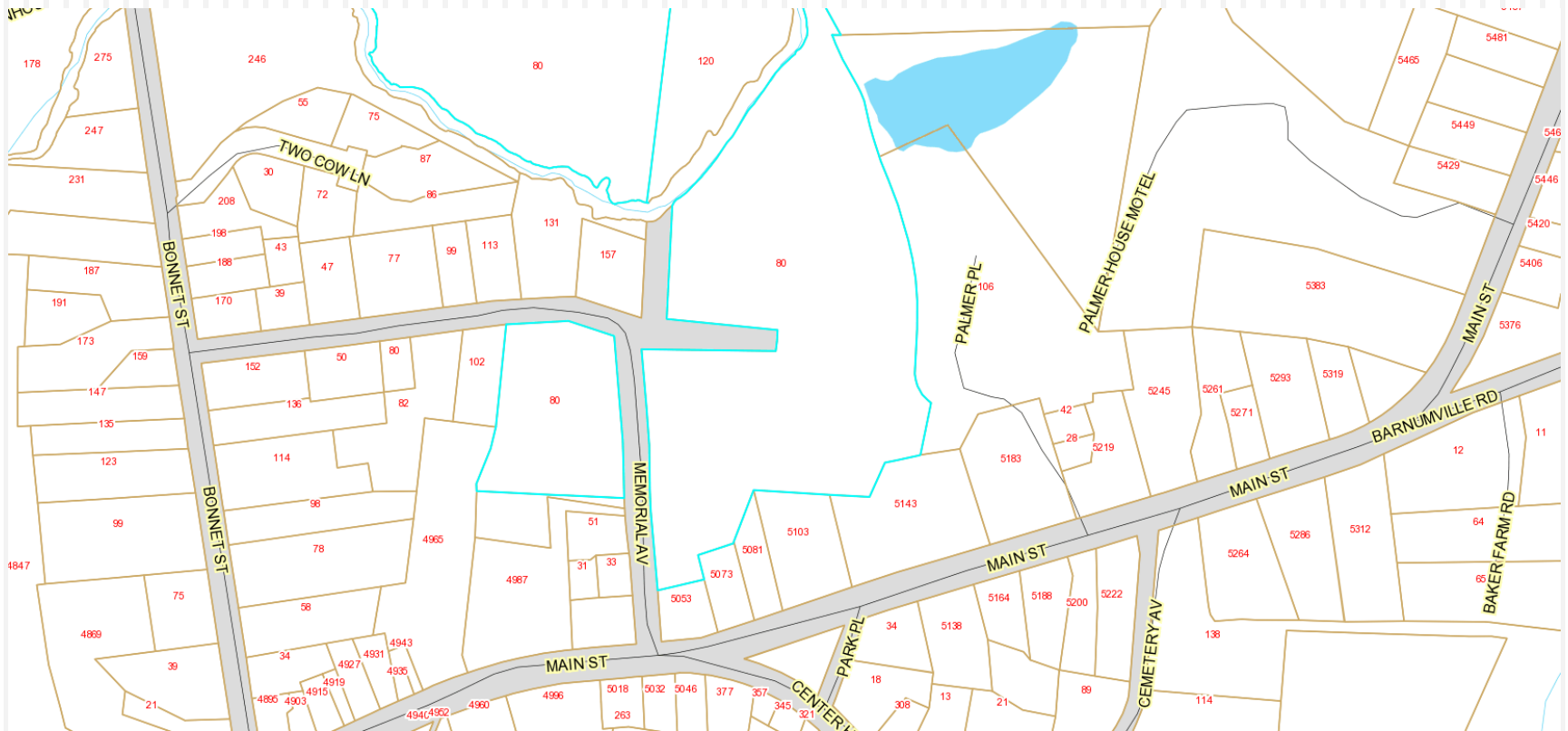
- Comment process moderated by Brian Vogel -- please direct comments to Brian (no cross conversations, please).
- Please keep comments or questions to 2 minutes in order to allow others to participate.
- Please keep comments germane to topic of meeting.
- **IMPORTANT:** Please state your name for the record.
- Purpose of meeting is to get public comments, not defend certain elements of the concept.
- People can also submit detailed comment letters to the Selectboard/Town Manager and/or School Board.

Overall Goals

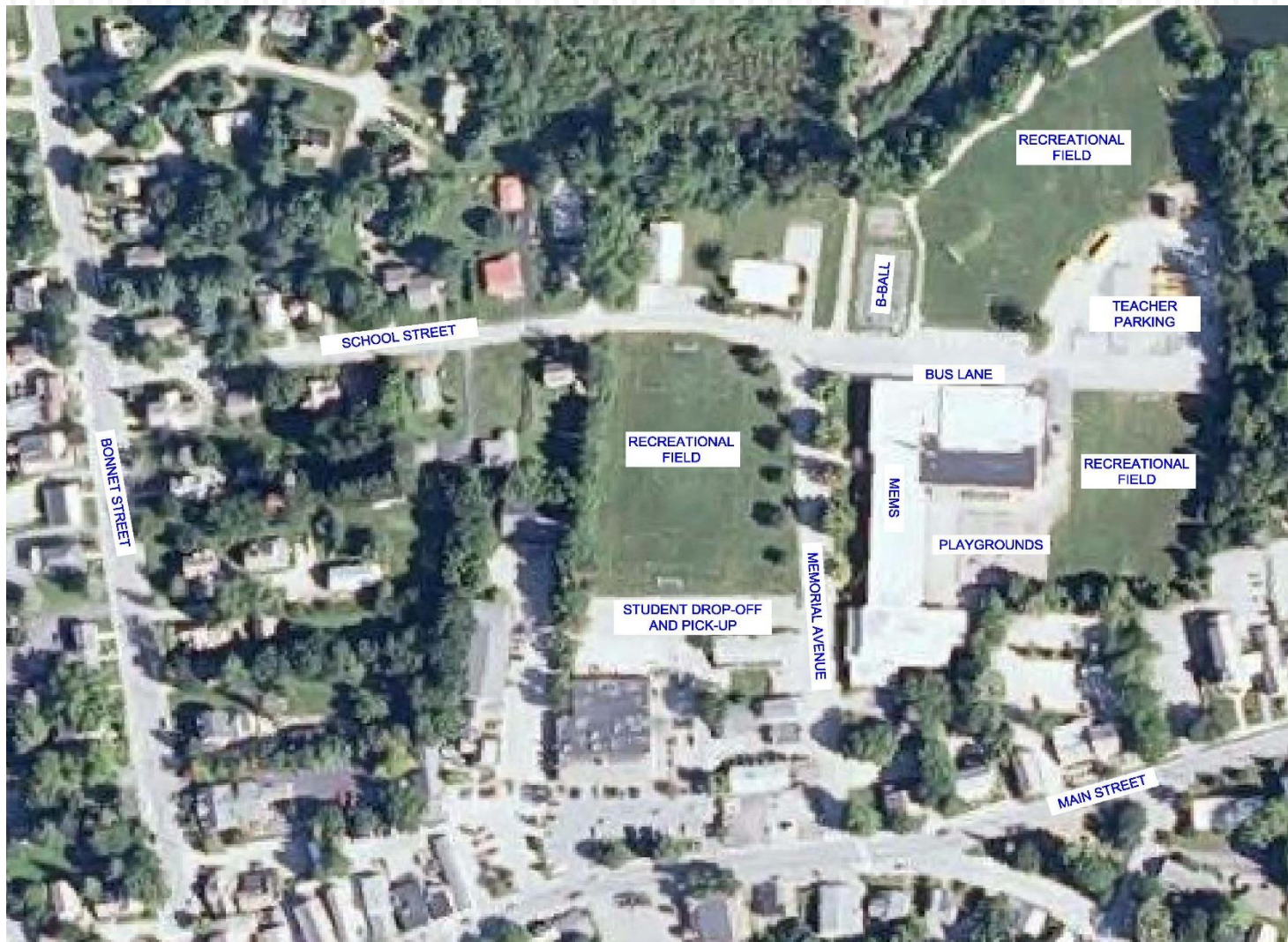


- **#1! Improve student, pedestrian, and vehicle safety**
- Improve overall functionality and use of the properties collectively owned by the School District and Town
- Enhance the overall streetscape and landscape around MEMS

Properties - Overview



Properties - Overview



MEMS Pedestrian Access Scoping Study



- Funded by VTrans Bicycle and Pedestrian Grant
- Team Members:
 - Carol Baringer, MEMS
 - John O'Keefe, Town of Manchester
 - Christina Haskins, PE, Dufresne Group
 - Mark Anders, Bennington County Regional Commission
- Specific Funding Requirements
 - Local Concerns Meeting
- Study Area
 - School Street – Sidewalk
 - Bonnet Street – Pedestrian Crossing
 - Main Street – Pedestrian Crossing

MEMS Pedestrian Access Scoping Study



- Existing Issues Identified by Team:
 - No Existing Sidewalks on School Street
 - No Pedestrian Crossing at Intersection of School Street and Memorial Avenue
 - Existing Crosswalk at Main Street:
 - Poor visibility
 - Angled alignment
 - No bump outs
 - Main Street curve
 - Parking spots on Main Street (hide crosswalk)
 - No Existing Crosswalk at Bonnet

Memorial Avenue Pedestrian Concerns



- Sidewalk on Memorial Avenue:
 - Too Narrow (footpath)
 - East Side of Road Only
- Crosswalks on Memorial Avenue
 - Mid-Block
- No crosswalk at intersection of School and Memorial
- Street Lighting
 - Inadequate - limited by utility poles
- No Designated Drop-off Area

Memorial Avenue Roadway Concerns



- Intersection of Memorial & School
 - ▣ Curve (not 90 degree intersection)
 - ▣ No Vehicle Control (Stop Signs)
 - ▣ High Speeds
- Pavement Width – Too Wide – Speed
- Two-Way vs. One-Way Traffic – Speed
- Speed Humps – May not be ideal solution
- Inadequate On-Street Parking
 - ▣ Wrong Side of Street
 - ▣ None on Southern Half of Memorial

Memorial Avenue Roadway Concerns



- Streetscaping - Minimal
 - Dying Trees – Norway Maples
 - Utility Poles in Street
- Fence Between Street and Field Needs Repair
- Poor Roadway Grading – high crown
- Poor Roadway Drainage
- School Street - No Municipal Sewer

MEMS Outdoor Space Concerns



- Current Fields are Inadequate
 - Bowen Field
 - Size is good – 100+ yards
 - Used too much, Poor Condition (recess)
 - Memorial Avenue Field
 - Too small (~90 yards)
 - Too wet, Poor Access (road crossing)
 - Field Behind MEMS
 - Too small (~70 yards)
 - Uneven, Low, Poor Condition
- Greenspace Behind MEMS Disrupted by Parking Lot
- Basketball Court
 - Potentially Encroaching on Private Easement, Too Close to Road and Bus Lane
- Playground Equipment – Out of Date (Separate Committee)

MEMS and Town Parking Concerns



- MEMS Parking Lot
 - In need of repair
 - Size is insufficient for current MEMS staff (100) and visitors
 - Used only during school hours and school event
 - Co-mingled with bus lane
 - Not currently maintained by Town DPW
- Town Parking Lot
 - In need of repair
 - Inefficient layout
 - Used by abutters
 - Poor drainage
 - No streetscape
 - Too small for peak seasons
- Historical Main Street may not have adequate public parking
- No downtown Park and Ride lot

Possible Solution



Upcoming Project Challenges



- Developing a solution that works for everyone
- Funding the Solution:
 - Park & Ride Grant
 - VTrans Bicycle and Pedestrian Grant
 - Mitigation Agreement
 - Surplus Town Parking Lot Possible
- Vermont school funding: Act 60!
 - Cheaper for Town to do some components
- Future maintenance
- Some costs of this will be unavoidable (example: existing parking lot repairs)

Possible Solutions/Outcomes



- Creation of a new parent drop-off configuration
- Reconfiguration of the school bus drop-off area
- Swap current MEMS parking and Memorial Avenue field – create more usable fields (full-size) and more usable parking lot
- Realignment of the intersection of Memorial Avenue and School Street – safer, slower
- Enhancement of pedestrian access and expanded sidewalk network around MEMS, including wider sidewalks on Memorial Avenue and sidewalk along School Street
- Improvement of the crosswalk on Main Street at the intersection of Memorial Avenue
- Relocation, expansion, improvement of MEMS playgrounds

Next Steps...



- PUBLIC MEETINGS!
 - ▣ Alternatives Presentation – Fall 2015
 - ▣ Public Informational Meeting
- Consider Public Comments and Input
- Present Findings and Concepts
 - ▣ Manchester School Board
 - ▣ Manchester Selectboard
- Identify Funding Sources
 - ▣ Cost estimate to be developed after alternatives are identified and evaluated
- Design Phase?
- Town Meeting?